

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, and 13-23 are pending in this application and stand rejected. On December 29, 2004, a final Office Action was mailed, rejecting all pending claims as anticipated by the Han reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,415) and/or as obvious in view of Cleeves (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,144) in view of Xu (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,444). With this amendment, claims 1 and 13 are amended.

I. Statement of Substance of Interview

On April 15, 2005, Applicants' representative Robert Hulse conducted an interview with examiners Elizabeth M. Keaney and Edward J. Glick. In this interview, the pending rejections of all claims were discussed.

In response to previous rejections in this matter, Applicants have argued that the references do not disclose or suggest, alone or in any combination, the feature of a plurality of unconnected sections of a seed layer for a particular pair of gate and emitter electrodes. Although it was generally agreed that this feature would distinguish the claims over the cited references, whether this feature was actually recited in the claims was in dispute. Accordingly, Applicants' representative and the examiners discussed whether this limitation was recited in the claims as then presented and explored other language that could be added to the claims to make this distinguishing feature more explicit.

Although Applicants believe this feature to be recited in the claims, an agreement was reached that the claim amendments made herein and discussed below would make the distinguishing feature more explicit and thereby overcome the rejections based on the cited references. It is understood that the allowance of the claims is subject to any further searches conducted by the examiner.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite that the laterally separated sections of the seed layer are “unconnected,” as recited explicitly in claim 2. Viewed in the context of the specification, the term “laterally separated” by itself requires that the sections of the seed layer be unconnected. The addition of “unconnected” therefore does not narrow the claim scope, but rather makes explicit the relationship between the laterally separated sections of the seed layer.

Claim 13 was further amended to recite that each section of the seed layer is electrically coupled between one or more “of the plurality of” groups of electrons-emissive elements. This amendment makes explicit that multiple sections of the seed layer are associated with the electron-emissive elements for the particular pair of emitter electrode and gate electrode recited in the claim, and not with other electron emissive elements that might also be included in the device (e.g., for other pixels in a display system).

III. Summary

It is therefore believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes direct contact would help advance prosecution of this case, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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